

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, PA DCNR, and Knouse Foods Announce Collaboration to Plant Trees in Biglerville and bring cleaner water to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

On October 21st the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance), Knouse Foods Cooperative, Inc., a fruit grower owned cooperative (Knouse), and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) hosted an event at Knouse Foods campus in Adams County, PA to plant trees and celebrate the 16 total acres of habitat that the company is creating this fall.

"Conservation and business sense can go hand in hand; they both boil down to preparing for a sustainable future, as clearly demonstrated by our partners at Knouse Foods." said Ryan Davis, the Alliance's Pennsylvania Forests Projects Manager. "The meadows and forests at Knouse Foods will replace unused lawn cover while saving money and improving local pollinator populations, a significant asset for an apple cooperative"



Knouse Foods Manager of Environmental Affairs Charlie Bennett gives opening remarks to a team of volunteers prior to the tree planting.

Download additional photos and captions:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-JN21t-3YntRqe24AXhs9HsWWAHdD8Ns?usp=sharing>

Representatives from all participating organizations along with local volunteers joined forces to plant over 700 trees on Knouse's grounds. The trees are part of multiple riparian forest buffers, which are tree plantings along unforested streams that are critical for water quality. In addition to the 3.25 acres of trees planted on October 21st, the Alliance will soon convert 13 acres of lawn to native meadow habitat.

"This streamside forest buffer and meadows project sets an example for large landowners and customers that sustainable practices are good for business, our environment, and our communities." Dunn said. "By involving students and volunteers, Knouse Foods is getting people engaged and empowered to work on solutions for water quality and resiliency."



DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and Ryan Davis, the Alliance's Pennsylvania Forests Projects Manager, walk volunteers through a tree planting demonstration.

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True to their commitment to environmental responsibility, Knouse decided to partner with the Alliance to implement these conservation improvements on their properties. The practices will save the company money by reducing mowing while also improving the campus for pollinators and reducing stormwater runoff.

"It can be challenging to balance business with nature, but these programs are a perfect fit."

Said Knouse Foods Manager of Environmental Affairs Charlie Bennett. *"As a fruit grower owned cooperative operating food production plants, our focus needs to be upon making quality fruit products every day and not on mowing. We need bees to pollinate apple blossoms and protecting our streams helps everyone downstream."*

The work completed by the partners is only the beginning of a fruitful partnership for conservation; additional forest plantings will be planned in the future.

WHEN: Phase one of the project was completed on October 21, 2021

WHERE: 33 Musselman Ave, Biglerville, PA 17307

WHO: Representatives from funders and partners involved in the project:

- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Knouse Foods
- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Adams County Conservation District
- Biglerville Borough
- Biglerville High School Future Farmers of America

PHOTOS: A gallery of full resolution event photos with descriptive metadata captions is available for download at the link below:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-JN21t-3YntRqe24AXhs9HsWWAHdD8Ns?usp=sharing>

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ABOUT THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY:

Headquartered in Annapolis, MD, with offices in Lancaster, PA, Washington, D.C., and Richmond, VA, the Alliance implements local programs that connect people to their local rivers and streams. As individuals become directly involved in local restoration efforts, our programs build resiliency among our communities and landscapes to continually adapt to a changing world.

In the last 50 years, the Alliance has:

- Planted over 1 million trees
- Installed over \$10M in practices to reduce polluted stormwater runoff
- Implemented over 764 acres of on-farm best management practices
- Trained over 700 volunteer scientists to collect over 360,000 water quality data points

ABOUT PA DCNR

The mission of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is to conserve and sustain Pennsylvania's natural resources for present and future generations' use and enjoyment.

ABOUT KNOUSE FOODS

Knouse Foods is a fruit-grower-owned cooperative headquartered in Peach Glen PA with operations in Biglerville PA.